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The Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office has closed the Sundance Lodge recreation area south of Laurel to the entry of horses and other livestock due to the vesicular stomatitis (VS) outbreak in the area. In addition to the presence of infected horses in the Laurel area, cattle grazing in part of the Sundance Lodge area are infected.

In addition to horses, the closure applies to cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, or any other livestock whether on foot or in a vehicle. The closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

The Sundance Lodge area is located near the confluence of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the Yellowstone River and contains about 380 acres of river bottom intermingled with the irrigated hay lands. The area is popular for wildlife watching, environmental education, photography, hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

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